



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County  
Board of Supervisors

Gloria Molina  
First District

Yvonne B. Burke  
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky  
Third District

Don Knabe  
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich  
Fifth District

March 20, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.  
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CULTURAL FOOD PREPARATION  
LAWS

Bruce A. Chernof, MD  
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

John R. Cochran III  
Chief Deputy Director

William Loos, MD  
Acting Senior Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer  
313 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 909  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213) 240-8117  
Fax: (213) 975-1273

[www.ladhs.org](http://www.ladhs.org)

*To improve health  
through leadership,  
service and education.*

On October 18, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing the Director of Public Health to convene meetings with restaurant groups representing various Asian cuisines. This is to provide an update on our progress since our February 8, 2006 status report.

Determine additional training needs on the recent State law changes concerning food temperature

Status - The Environmental Health, Consultation and Technical Services (CTS) unit contacted representatives of the Japanese Restaurant Association to follow up and offer assistance on the organization's efforts to provide CTS with completed survey instruments from the Japanese restaurant community. CTS was advised that efforts to secure completed surveys were ongoing and that completed surveys would be forwarded to CTS as they are received by the Japanese Restaurant Association.

CTS completed a review of all the completed surveys submitted by members of the Chinese and Korean restaurant communities. Results of the survey review revealed that the majority of respondents did not express concern regarding the preparation and storage of specific food dishes unique to the Chinese and Korean restaurant communities. However, the majority of respondents did indicate they would be interested in a workshop that addressed basic food safety principles. Consequently, CTS has initiated the development of such a workshop. Separate workshops will be developed for the Chinese and Korean restaurant communities and tailored to address their specific concerns regarding food safety principles. The workshop presentations will be translated in to the respective languages for the communities being served.



[www.ladhs.org](http://www.ladhs.org)

Throughout the workshop presentation development process, CTS will solicit input from the respective restaurant communities to arrive at a final product that truly addresses their needs. Completion of the workshop presentations and subsequent translations is targeted for July, 2006. Development of a similar workshop presentation for the Japanese restaurant community will depend upon the results of their completed surveys.

CTS has been unable to identify and/or contact any viable community based organizations or food industry associations representing the Filipino, Thai, and Vietnamese restaurant communities in Los Angeles County.

Additional studies on the safety of traditional cultural food preparation techniques

Status - A literature review of food items that survey respondents have identified as areas of concern with respect to food holding temperature requirements is ongoing. Pending the results of this review, laboratory analysis of the food items may be necessary to determine whether or not the foods pose a threat to public health and safety when stored at temperatures other than those identified in current law.

We will provide you with another status report in 90 days. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

BAC:JEF:hd  
511:025

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors